

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /094 W

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R 241709Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5416

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH CONTACTS WITH IEA

REF: PARIS 30792

1. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ISSUED SECOND RELEASE ON CONTACTS
BETWEEN GOF AND IEA, RECTIFYING FIRST RELEASE (WHICH FOR
PURPOSES OF BREVITY IN THIS MESSAGE WILL BE REFERRED TO
AS R-1 AND R-2 IN THIS MESSAGE). R-1, REPORTED REFTEL,
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CONFIRMED NEW YORK TIMES REPORT TO EFFECT THE IEA AND

FRANCE HAVE AGREED TO HAVE FORMAL CONTACTS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONSULTATION AMONG CONSUMERS. TEXT OF R-2 IS AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS COMPLETELY INACCURATE TO SPEAK OF 'FORMAL CONTACTS' BETWEEN THE IEA AND FRANCE AND EVEN MORE SO OF A KIND OF 'ASSOCIATE STATUS' OF FRANCE WITHIN THAT ORGANIZATION, AUTHORIZED SOURCES ANNOUNCED TODAY WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPORT PUBLISHED MONDAY MORNING BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.

2. "AS THEY HAVE DONE SINCE THE CREATION OF THE GROUP OF 12 AND AS IS NORMAL AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SAME COMMUNITY, THESE SOURCES ADDED, FRANCE'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP HER INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF WORK IN WHICH THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IEA.

3. "THIS WORK AND THE DISCUSSIONS ON EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY CAN HAVE AN INFLUENCE, THESE SOURCES BELIEVE, ON THE IDEAS WHICH FRANCE'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS WILL SUPPORT WITHIN THE IEA."

4. WHEN BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, INFORMED ECON/COM MIN ON DECEMBER 23 THAT HE WAS THE SOURCE OF THE STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN THE FRENCH PRESS, HE WAS REFERRING TO R-2, NOT AS WE SUPPOSED AT THE TIME, TO R-1. HE EXPLAINED TO ECON/COM MIN ON DECEMBER 24 THAT R-1 HAD EMANATED FROM THE PRESS SECTION OF THE MFA AND THAT IT HAD SO INACCURATELY REFLECTED THE GOF POSITION THAT HE HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE A CORRECTION.

5. BRUNET SAID THAT WHAT HAD TROUBLED HIM PARTICULARLY IN THE ORIGINAL NEW YORK TIMES STORY WAS THE STATEMENT THAT A PROCEDURE OF "FORMAL CONTACTS" BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE IEA HAD BEEN AGREED ON AND THE FURTHER STATEMENT THAT "AN UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL" HAD CHARACTERIZED AS "A KIND OF ASSOCIATE STATUS" THE RELATIONSHIP THAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE WITH THE IEA. BRUNET SAID HE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO CORRECT AT ONCE THE UNFORTUNATE AND ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE ANYTHING FORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR OFFICIAL ABOUT FRANCE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IEA. THIS BEING SAID, HE REAFFIRMED HIS STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY TO ECON/COM MIN THAT DIRECT CONTACT WITH DAVIGNON, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE IEA, WAS AN ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY WAY FOR THE GOF TO CARRY OUT THE MARTINIQUE COMMITMENT ON STRENGTHENING CONSUMER COOPERATION.
RUSH

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